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WOODBIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for year

1950

WOODBIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Chairman and Councillors,
Woodbridge Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my Annual Report for the year 1950. This Report has followed similar lines to those of previous years but by the introduction of more detailed statistics I have attempted to increase the usefulness of the information which it contains.

Another innovation which I felt would be of great value is a report by the Sanitary Inspector on certain aspects of the sanitary state of the District.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. IMRIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

17 Thoroughfare,
Woodbridge.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health.

C. H. Imrie, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.

G. Ogden, M.R. San I.

A STATISTICS.

1. Summary of General Statistics

Area of District in Acres.....	1097
Number of Inhabited houses.....	1814
Rateable Value of District.....	£33935
Product of Penny Rate.....	£130.15.11.

2. Summary of Vital Statistics

1942 to 1950

	<u>1942</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Estimated									
Population.	4467	4446	4533	4718	4998	5101	6450	5380	5340
Birth Rate.	18.8	17.5	20.5	17.4	19.4	17.8	13.3	18.7	19.2
Still Birth									
Rate.	0.67	0.22	0.22	0.85	0.4	0.19	0.40	-	0.93
Death Rate.	14.3	14.2	17.2	14.6	10.7	13.3	13.2	14.3	11.3
Infantile									
Death Rate.	23.8	12.8	43.0	24.4	51.5	21.9	23.2	50.4	37.5

ANALYSIS OF VITAL STATISTICS.

a. Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	42	31	80
Illegitimate	5	2	

Birth Rate per 1000 population 14.9

Birth Rate per 1000 population England
and Wales 15.8

Comparability Factor 1.29

b. Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1000 population 0.93

Still Birth Rate per 1000 population
England & Wales 0.37

c. Deaths all Ages

	Male	Female	Total
	39	41	80

Death Rate per 1000 population 14.9

Death Rate per 1000 population England
and Wales 29.8

Comparability Factor 0.76

d. Deaths Infantile Mortality

	Male	Female	Total
	3	2	5

Infantile Death Rate per 1000 population
37.5

Infantile Death Rate per 1000 population
England & Wales 29.8

Causes of Death

Code No.	Disease.	Male	Female	Total
1	Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	0	1
3	Syphilitic Diseases	0	1	1
10	Malignant neoplasm stomach	0	1	1
11	Malignant neoplasm lung	2	0	2
12	Malignant neoplasm breast	0	4	4
14	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	5	2	7
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	4	10
18	Coronary disease, angina	6	1	7
19	Hypertension with heart disease	3	4	7
20	Other heart disease	4	12	16
21	Other circulatory disease	2	1	3
22	Influenza	0	1	1
23	Pneumonia	2	0	2
24	Bronchitis	0	1	1
25	Other disease of resp. system	0	1	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
32	Other defined and ill defined disease	6	5	11
34	All other accidents	1	1	2
35	Suicide	0	2	2
Totals		39	41	80

Causes of Death Under 1 Year.

	Male	Female
Prematurity	1	1
Meningitis	1	0
Pneumonia	0	1
Asphyxia, breech delivery	1	0
	3	2



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Comment

The population estimate for the year 1950 shows a slight fall when compared with that of the previous year. In actual fact there has been very little variation over the past three years, and the differences are not significant. Taken over a period of ten years the population seems to be slowly but steadily increasing, but the census in 1951 should show the trend more definitely.

The birth rate while appreciably lower than in the previous year is comparable with the rate for England and Wales and may be regarded as satisfactory.

The Still Birth rate, which depends on small numbers is liable to considerable variation and this has been demonstrated over the past few years. The rate of 0.93 is perhaps rather high but I do not attach undue weight to it.

The General death rate remains steady and when the size of the population is taken into account is quite comparable with other districts. The comparability correction gives a death rate of 11.3

With regard to the Infant Mortality rate the same remarks as I made about the Still Birth rate apply and I regard the figures as satisfactory.

Taken generally the statistics are very satisfactory and indicate that the well being of the population compares well with that of the Country as a whole.

B NOTIFIABLE DISEASES - NON TUBERCULOUS.

During 1950 there were 224 **notifications** of Infectious Disease received. This number is considerably higher than the figures for the previous years and is due almost entirely to an outbreak of Measles in the early Spring. This produced nearly 200 cases of the illness which however does not seem to have been of a serious type. The outbreak commenced in January and quickly reached a maximum in February. Thereafter the number of notifications fell fairly rapidly until in May and June we only had three cases reported.

Measles in itself is not a serious malady and nearly all the complications with which it is associated are due to superadded infection with the germs which produce pneumonia, running ears and sore eyes. Freedom from complications varies therefore with the general health of the patient and the hygienic state of his environment.

It will be noted that the greatest incidence of measles was in the over five age groups. This is of course due to the wider social contacts which are established on going to school.

Of the remaining infectious diseases which were notified during the year there is little that calls for comment. Whooping Cough was fortunately practically absent from the population and Scarlet Fever only produced 3 cases.

There was one case of Food Poisoning, a child of four years who had just returned from a holiday during which he visited most of the South Coast resorts. Investigation suggested that the infection had been contracted during this holiday but it was impossible to say just where. The usual precautions against spreading were taken and the child soon recovered.

Infectious Disease Non Tuberculous.

TABLE I

Totals over preceeding years.

Disease	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940
Jaundice	4	11	11	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Measles	48	23	3	153	20	8	107	1	117	7
Pneumonia	10	11	18	13	14	10	29	9	18	7
Scarlet Fever	11	1	5	2	-	8	7	10	3	9
Whooping cough	57	5	3	31	19	7	16	10	30	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glandular Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chicken Pox	-	4	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	1	-	-	3	-	1	1	-	4
Puerual	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pyrexia	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	2	1	1
Polionyelitis	1	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipalas	2	-	-	5	2	-	1	2	4	3
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	7	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	135	59	53	206	59	36	163	40	181	32

TABLE II

Monthly Totals of Notifications 1950

Disease	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jne	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Jaundice	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Measles	4	104	70	17	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	198
Pneumonia	1	5	1	3	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	15
Scarlet Fever	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Glandular Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Distribution of Notifications by Age 1950

IMMUNISATION

182

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
No. on Register 1st January 1950	15	10	3	4	32
No. cases notified during the year	2	3			5
No. restored to Register	1				1
No. added other- wise than by Notification	-	-	-	-	-
No. removed from Register	2	3	1	1	7
No. remaining on Register at 31.12.50	16	10	3	2	31

Reasons for Removal from Register:

	Male	Female
Died	2	-
Recovered	1	2
Moved to other Districts	-	2
	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

The Death rate for Tuberculosis is 0.37 per 1000 population.

As compared with 0.36 per 1000 population for England & Wales.

C HOUSING

Housing in Woodbridge is one of our chief Public Health problems. As I pointed out in a previous report there is a considerable amount of old property in use throughout the district and a proportion at least does not conform to our ideas of a satisfactory standard. Many of the old buildings are however of considerable historical and architectural interest and as such are worthy of preservation but unfortunately they can only be regarded as sub-standard for dwelling purposes.

It will be observed that as in 1949 the Waiting List for Council Houses has increased in spite of the energetic building programme.

Although this is the case, I do not feel that Woodbridge has any reason to be ashamed of its post war housing effort. It has accomplished as much or more in that direction than many larger authorities. Since the war Woodbridge has built a total of 152 Council Houses which represents one house for every 34 persons in the population.

At the same time however, although much has been done, there yet remains the knotty problem of making building keep pace with the demands for accomodation and the only way this can be done is by continuing to build as many houses as possible.

During the year houses of an unsatisfactory standard were kept under observation and such repairs and improvements as were feasible and necessary were obtained.

With regard to the future I feel that our energies must be directed in the first place to increasing as rapidly as possible the type of accommodation which is most needed, and in the second place to ensuring, by current repairs and renovations, that the useful life of old property is prolonged as much as possible until we are in a position to re-house the tenants.

Housing Statistics.

Number of inhabited houses at end of 1950 - 1814

Average number of persons per house - 2.9

Number of houses built by Council	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
	24	62	34	31

Total number of houses built since war - 176.

Number on waiting list for houses end of 1948 - 174

" " " " " " " " 1949 - 270

" " " " " " " " 1950 - 325

D WATER

During 1950 the Woodbridge Council Waterworks maintained in a most satisfactory manner the water supply to the community.

The quantity of water available for pumping has always been ample but, as I mentioned in a previous report the storage capacity is only sufficient for the ordinary demands upon it and in emergency would probably fail.

This question has been discussed by the Authority and a scheme is being prepared for the erection of a new water tower of 100,000 gallons capacity. This additional capacity should provide a much more satisfactory reserve.

The quality of the Woodbridge Water is good, but the high degree of both temporary and permanent hardness is a drawback which renders the use of the water for domestic purposes more expensive to the consumer than it would otherwise be.

The possibility of bulk softening of the water has already been considered by the Authority but in view of the considerable expense it would involve, it was decided that such a measure could not be justified at present. It is to be hoped that this project will not be lost from sight in the future.

Bacteriological and chemical analyses of the water have always indicated a high degree of purity (see report appended).

In April a complaint was made about the quality of the water. As the details are unusual they may be of interest.

A householder Mrs. X had recently had the main supply connected to her house. After a short time she complained that the scale in her kettle was turning green.

Examination of the kettle and the water from the tap revealed the presence of a trace of copper amounting to 0.018 grains per gallon in the water. As the metal only appeared in the tap water and was absent from the town main it obviously came from the new copper pipes used in the house. On being questioned Mrs. X admitted that she only used the tap to fill her kettle, the water therefore stood for a considerable period each day in contact with the new copper pipe. The analyst who was consulted, pointed out that the amount of metal in the water was too small to affect health and would disappear once the new copper surface became oxidised.

This proved to be the case no further complaint was received.

The interest of this case lies in the fact that it was possible to produce a weak solution of copper by prolonged contact of the water with a new pipe.

A total of 59,105,210 gallons of water were consumed during the year. This represents an approximate daily average of 21.5 gallons per head for all purposes.

Mains extensions in the district during 1950 totalled 2178 feet while the number of consumers increased by 87 during this period.

At the end of the year the number of houses in the district with a piped supply was 1508.

Chemical Analysis by Public Analyst 26.4.50

Physical Characteristics	Clear pH 7.2		
Free & Saline Ammonia	-	trace	
Albuminoid "	-	0.0007 grains/gallon	
Combined Chlorine	-	6.5	" "
Free carbonic acid	-	2.9	" "
Nitrogen as nitrates	-	0.34	" "
Nitrites	-	nil.	
Hardness (temporary)	-	29°	} Total 41°
" (permanent)	-	12°	

The water is free from pollution and is of moderate hardness.

E PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse.

In an urban area, especially in one which has very little waste ground available, the disposal of refuse frequently presents difficulties. The system of refuse disposal which is at present operated in Woodbridge is that of incinerating the combustible portion, after the removal of salvage, and tipping the remainder and covering with earth. This method has the advantage of being fairly economic from the point of view of both cost and space but stringent control of the tipping is essential to prevent a nuisance developing.

Sewage.

In my report for 1949 I mentioned that the delays which have been experienced in starting on the Woodbridge & Melton Joint Sewerage Scheme are deeply to be regretted, as the needs of the district are becoming more pressing as time passes. It is therefore with added regret that I have to record that by the end of 1950 very little real progress had been made towards starting on this most essential work. The situation as regards sewage disposal is at the moment more or less as outlined in previous reports.

One aspect of the sewage disposal problem however, must be mentioned. A certain amount of sewage from the lower end of the Town finds its way by means of two outfalls into the River Deben which is at this point tidal and of considerable volume and flow. This sewage is of small amount compared with the volume of water into which it is discharged and is fairly rapidly removed. Bacteriological examinations of the river water have been carried out and although they confirmed the presence of sewage, no disease producing organisms were found.

This source of river pollution will, of course, be eliminated when the Sewerage Scheme is in operation...

F Action Under Various Acts & Regulations.

I Factories Act 1937

Factories not employing power	On Register 3	Inspections 1	Defects Remedied - -	
Factories employing power.	34	10	2	2

Outworkers - nil on Register.

II National Assistance Act 1948

Visits and investigations made in connection with the above Act totalled 11. No. statutory action however under Section 47 was considered necessary.

There were 2 persons buried in Woodbridge Cemetery under the provisions of Section 50.

III Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949

During the year no case of infection of a retail milk supply with any disease producing germs was discovered in the district.

G Public Health Services

The County Council as the Local Health Authority is responsible for the services listed in Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946. In addition the administration of the School Health Service is a County responsibility.

The provision of hospital accommodation and specialist facilities is under the care of the Regional Hospital Board. The local arrangements are more or less as before.

Laboratory facilities are available for bacteriological examinations at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich, and for chemical tests at the Public Analyst's Laboratory, Norwich.

WOODBIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR & SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the request of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Imrie, I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the work which has been carried out during the past year. This report should be read in conjunction with that of the Medical Officer of Health so as to get a true picture of the efforts, and to some degree success in improving the standard of health, hygiene and sanitation in the district.

We are still suffering to a large extent, from the effects of the War years and the economic position resulting from those years and it is, therefore, impossible for the Council to contemplate the immediate removal of some of the evils, but I am confident that, given the opportunity, the Council will do everything in their power to remedy those defects.

I wish this Report to be a record of the amount of work which the Council and their Staff have been able to do by joint action and collaboration and hope that the same spirit will continue during the years to come.

Housing.

(1) Council Houses. At the end of 1950 the Council had built 152 houses since the War and a further 26 have been built to date. There are in addition 22 houses under construction.

(2) Private Enterprise. During the years since the War Private Enterprise has been allowed to build as follows:-

1946	-	5	houses.	
1947	-	6	"	
1948	-	1	House.	
1949	-	6	houses	
1950	-	5	"	total 23 houses.

(3) Housing Applications. There were at the end of 1950 325 applications for Council houses or other housing accommodation and in addition, 30 applications for licences to build.

The Housing Committee and allocations sub-committee did a considerable amount of work in the selection of Housing Tenants. There are still a large number of applications for houses outstanding and it is intended during 1951 to reduce the number to genuine local applications.

(4) Control of Civil Building.

Defence Regulation 56A - Control of maintenance and repair work costing more than £100 has continued to be exercised by the Council and, during the year, licences were issued involving an expenditure of £9,106.19.5d. and, for Private Enterprise Building, an amount of £10,221.0.0.

(5) Housing Act 1949 - Section 20

Improvement Grants - A considerable interest has been maintained during the year and a number of applications received for improvement grants towards the cost of modernising and bringing property up to a satisfactory standard of sanitary arrangements.

During the year 5 applications were approved for Grant.

Scavenging

- (1) Cesspool Emptying Service. A total of 878 cesspools were emptied during the year, some of which required three or four loads to be removed. The two men who operate the cesspool machine have proved themselves to be very efficient and regular attention is given to a number of cesspools where emptying is necessary at very short intervals, especially during the wet weather.
- (2) Nightsoil Collection and Disposal. This service is being effectively carried out by a team of three men who attend to the emptying and disposal of the contents of nearly 1,000 pails each week.
- (3) Refuse Collection and Disposal. There are now over 1,900 dust bins to empty each week and this number is increasing every year. A team of three men do the major part of this work, the remainder being collected by a separate lorry.
- (4) Waste Recovery. Considerable quantities of waste materials are being salvaged, including paper, books, cardboard, tins, glass bottles and scrap iron and the sale of these materials will help to relieve the rates and thereby be of benefit to all the townspeople.

The Council have entered the National Waste Paper Contest and it is hoped that, by the end of this present year, the recovery of waste paper in this area will prove to be equal to any in the Country.

Rodent Control.

This service is being effectively carried out by a Council employee working part-time on this work. Opportunity is taken for the man to keep up to date by attending Special Courses of Instruction periodically.

Verminous Premises.

It has been the practise to supply free of charge the dis-infestation of verminous houses and also the disinfection of premises after infectious diseases.

Factories and Workshops and Shops Acts.

Interest has been maintained in improving the sanitary arrangements and the standard of personal hygiene of those handling food.

Exhibitions and film shows helped to stimulate the campaign for clean food, several shops and food caterers have improved their sanitary arrangements for their staff.

The following list of foods was voluntarily surrendered during the year:-

588 lbs Fish.
327 tinned foods.
67 lbs cheese.
97 lbs meat.
59 pkts cake mixture.

All these foods were found to be unfit for human consumption and certificates issued.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. Ogden,

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.

